

July 21, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies & Gentlemen:

RESOLUTION ON HEALTH RISKS POSED BY WIND TURBINES

WHEREAS, Brown County has established a Board of Health pursuant to Wis. Stats. §251.03; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes give the Board of Health responsibilities to: “Develop policy and provide leadership that fosters local involvement and commitment, that emphasizes public health needs . . .” and to “. . .assure that measures are taken to provide an environment in which individuals can be healthy” Wis. Stats. §251.04 (6)(b) and §251.04 (7); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health met on May 25, June 8 and June 15, 2010 to collect and consider information from various sources including the following:

- 1) Statement on health and safety of existing installations from Invenergy, LLC (Sponsor of LedgeWind project proposed for rural Brown County);
- 2) A review of available literature on health concerns associated with Wind Turbines presented by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services;
- 3) The proposed regulations (5/17/10 Draft) of Chapter PSC 128, the Wind Siting Rules presently being considered by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin;
- 4) Various studies from throughout the world on the health effects of wind turbines and guidelines from the World Health Organization;

- 5) Statements from Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy;
- 6) Presentations from Bill Hafs, Director of the Brown County Land Conservation Department and Kristin Morehouse, P.E. from Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy on the contamination threat construction of wind turbines and installation of necessary underground cables pose to the well water consumed by residents in rural areas of Brown County where the bedrock has Karst features; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has identified issues of concern for the health of Brown County residents including noise from wind turbines causing health problems for persons in occupied structures and a concern installation of wind turbine systems may result in well water contamination where Karst features in the bedrock are conduits for surface water run off; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors it believes are important to the health of county residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the recommendations of the Board of Health as follows:

- 1) Wind turbines should be placed such that sound outside of any occupied structure be measured at no greater than 40 decibels at night;
- 2) Required set back placements should be a minimum of 2,640 to 3,168 feet from an occupied structure;

- 3) Wind turbines should not be installed in areas of southern Brown County where Karst features in the bedrock have been identified because of the contamination threat posed to the residents' drinking water supply;
- 4) The Board of Supervisors recommends no wind turbines be constructed in unincorporated areas of Brown County until Chapter PSC 128 Wind Siting Rules are enacted and in force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Brown County representatives serving in the Wisconsin Legislature and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Approved By:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Signed: _____

Final Draft Approved by Corporation Counsel

Fiscal Impact: None

July 21, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPACT ON GROUNDWATER DUE TO CONSTRUCTION IN KARST REGIONS OF BROWN COUNTY AS PART OF THEIR REVIEW OF THE LEDGE WIND ENERGY, LLC, (INVENERGY) WIND ENERGY PROJECT APPLICATION.

WHEREAS, Invenergy has submitted an application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to install 100 wind turbines as part of a wind energy project in southern Brown County; and

WHEREAS, southern Brown County includes areas of Karst features along the Niagara Escarpment; and

WHEREAS, Karst features are geological features that can act as direct conduits for pollutants to enter groundwater, wells, springs, and streams; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department have mapped and field verified over 100 Karst features in the Town of Morrison; and

WHEREAS, areas of southern Brown County have experienced serious groundwater contamination problems caused by land application of waste near Karst features that resulted in over 100 wells contaminated by bacteria, E-coli, and nitrates from 2005 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, over 30 percent of nearly 300 wells tested in the Town of Morrison by the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Studies (2005 and 2006) and the University of Wisconsin Green Bay in 2009 were over the drinking water standard of 10 parts per million of nitrates; and

WHEREAS, the installation of footings, access roads, and cables buried four feet deep for 100 wind energy turbines are likely to intersect Karst bedrock features and potentially create additional conduits for pollutants to groundwater; and

WHEREAS, land application of animal wastes and other wastes including industrial wastes, septic wastes, and municipal wastes near conduits to groundwater increases the risk of groundwater contamination and risks to public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin review the Invenergy application for the wind farm in Brown County and require that Invenergy use proper engineering construction methods around wind turbine footings, access roads, and buried power cables to prevent additional conduits of groundwater from being created; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Brown County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission require Invenergy to communicate and provide information regarding the specific location of all Karst features encountered during construction for the proposed wind energy project to the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help regulate the land application of animal wastes by the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department and industrial, septic, and municipal wastes by the DNR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Brown County respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission require Invenergy to provide funds for a Brown County staff person to be hired to work with Invenergy and residents in the wind farm region during the construction phase of the project regarding location and identification of Karst features; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this staff person will continue to work in the wind energy project area, throughout the lifespan of the project, with land application of animal waste setbacks, nutrient management, and coordination of other land application of industrial wastes, municipal wastes, and septic wastes with the DNR to prevent future groundwater contamination problems.

Respectfully submitted,

LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT &
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Approved By:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Signed: _____

Final Draft Approved by Corporation Counsel

Fiscal Impact: _____